

RECOGNITION OF THE NATURAL
RESOURCES LAW CENTER'S 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Natural Resources Law Center, a legal and policy research organization housed at the University of Colorado's School of Law. The Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary of providing path-breaking, scholarly and practical input and analysis on the use, development and protection of our natural resources and environment.

The Center is widely recognized as one of the region's preeminent sources of research and educational programs on water and public lands issues, assisting managers, policy makers and other westerners committed to sustainable and balanced natural resource laws and practices. This mission has been the central thread in two decades of activity equally notable for its attention to emerging issues as its diligence in addressing long-standing areas of conflict and concern. The Center remains committed to informing and influencing natural resource decisions, recognizing that the quality of life so cherished by westerners is inextricably tied to our treatment of natural resources.

Center projects take a variety of forms. Perhaps best known are the Center's events, particularly the western water conferences held each June. These conferences consistently focus the nation's best minds on a variety of pressing and timely concerns, including endangered species management, groundwater depletion and pollution, operation of dams, water reallocation, transboundary disputes, and water conservation. Water resources have also been a prominent focus of Center publications, including pioneering work on instream flows, water markets, legal and administrative reform, and watershed partnerships.

Over time, a public lands program addressing issues as diverse as forest planning, wilderness preservation, and federal/state conflicts has balanced this traditional focus on water issues. The result is an organization intimately familiar with the many interconnections and dependencies found in natural resource systems and possessing expertise not limited to the physical environment, but equally relevant to the institutional landscape of laws, policies, administrative arrangements, and management practices.

By focusing on institutional arrangements, rather than merely laws and legal precedents, Center projects define natural resource problems and solutions broadly, revealing opportunities for innovation that would otherwise be buried by narrow thinking and the perception of hopeless gridlock. Center projects consistently show the natural resource problems of the West to be formidable, but nonetheless solvable. It is the immense value of this contribution, more so than the mere passage of twenty years, that they and I are celebrating today.

Looking forward, the natural resources of the West face several new challenges. Most central is the continued population growth that, over the life of the Center, has already made

the West the most rapidly growing region of the country. With roughly 1 million new westerners expected every year over the next two decades, the stress on limited water resources is just one of several concerns. Other emerging issues derive from the region's renewed emphasis on energy production, the explosive growth in outdoor recreation pressures, the twin concerns of ongoing drought and long-term climate change, and wildfires. As is its tradition, the Center is already active on each of these issues, having produced reports, hosted conferences, and most importantly, having already informed and influenced decision makers struggling to keep up with the pace of change.

The strength of the organization continues to be its staff, advisory board, and its impressive international network of collaborators, funders, and friends. The Center has been particularly blessed by a string of talented directors—Larry MacDonnell, Betsy Rieke, Gary Bryner, and currently, Jim Martin—and by the longstanding participation of prominent University of Colorado scholars including David Getches, Charles Wilkinson, and Jim Corbridge. Equally essential has been the research and writings of the professional staff, particularly Michael Gheleta, Doug Kenney, Ann Morgan, Kathryn Mutz, Teresa Rice, and Sarah (Bates) Van de Wetering, and the contributions of visiting fellows.

Supported by a small but talented cast of administrative support personnel and by an ever-changing assemblage of law students, the Center has been able to leverage its modest staff and budget into a powerful voice showing the way to environmental, economic and social sustainability through the improved management of natural resources. This is an important and honorable service worthy of our recognition and gratitude.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Natural Resources Law Center for its twenty years of accomplishments and contributions to issues throughout the West, and to welcoming its continued contributions for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
FRED COBETT

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Reverend Fred Cobett, Children's Minister to Calvary Assembly of God in Dunwoody, Georgia, for taking on an unusual role to teach children how to help other children, while raising money for mission work.

At the request of the children he works with, Pastor Cobett agreed to spend seven entire days on the ledge of a billboard forty feet above interstate 285 in Atlanta for a fundraiser called Up in the Air for Kids. This event is part of the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, a non-profit organization founded by the Assemblies of God Church that exists to reach the children of the world by creating a heart of compassion in the children they lead. The Up in the Air for Kids project is geared specifically toward raising community awareness of the needs of children around the world who are living in poverty. Nine other states nationwide

are also participating in this benefit and hope to reach a cumulative goal of \$1 million. Pastor Cobett's goal for Georgia is to raise \$100,000 that will be distributed among four separate charities including Convoy of Hope, Latin America Child Care, Africa's Children, and Asia's Little Ones.

As the son of a minister, I have a special affinity for Pastor Cobett and his ministry. It's a high calling, and I commend him for dedicating his life to teaching children the principles of charity, generosity, and goodwill in this creative manner.

HONORING THE DEDICATED LIFE
AND WORK OF DR. DAVID KRUGER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. David Kruger, an outstanding citizen of Alexandria, Virginia, who, for over half a century, has served his community and humanity.

His downtown Alexandria optometry office is a local landmark patronized by a wide clientele. In fact, Dr. Kruger was among the first healthcare professionals to open his office to clients of every economic or social status and ethnicity. He is universally recognized as a leader for nearly every community cause and is honored by a caricature in an Alexandria restaurant as a leading citizen.

Active in a variety of civic causes in Alexandria, he is especially noted for his support of and leadership roles in such community groups as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, United Givers Fund, Kiwanis (as President in 1960), and the Salvation Army. Similarly, he has served many other community groups with distinction. Among them are the Alexandria Board of Health as Secretary, the Alexandria Hospital, the Community Welfare Council, Tuberculosis Association, Boys Club, and Family Services.

As a man who embraces all religious traditions, he was one of the founders of a group called Men of all Faiths, which for many years has held well-attended lunchtime meetings where civic leaders shared fellowship and heard presentations by pastors, rabbis, and other religious leaders in Alexandria. In his own religious tradition, Dr. Kruger served as Vice President of Temple Beth El in Alexandria for nine years and was active in the Conference of Christians and Jews.

Caring for children and students is a hallmark of Dr. Kruger's life. Working through the RiteCare Program of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., U.S.A., Dr. Kruger has led the development of a network of six clinics in Virginia. These facilities evaluated or treated 1,246 children in the last period, 1999–2000, of official record. Without his leadership of this program, these children would almost certainly have gone untreated. Most recently, Dr. Kruger spearheaded the PACES Mobil clinic, a satellite service of the Scottish Rite clinic at Radford University. He has also been instrumental in establishing scholarships to train Speech Language Pathologists and related clinical professionals at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and Old Dominion University in Norfolk. A large majority of the graduates of these programs remain in Virginia